

Application Serial No. 10/532,952  
Reply to office action of August 7, 2009

**FEB 04 2010**  
PATENT  
Docket: CU-4170

**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 are pending. By the present amendment, claims 1, 4-6, 8, 11-14 are amended. No new matter has been added.

In the office action (page 2), the examiner rejects claims 1-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2003/0107771 (Shibata) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,807,388 (Kojima), and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2003/0154395 (Miura). The "et al." suffix is omitted in a reference name.

The applicants respectfully disagree.

According to the presently claimed application, specific evidence as to who outputted information on which output device is preserved in the server, which is separated from the output device, even after the output device outputs information onto media. Therefore, an unauthorized output can be deterred and, if by any chance an unauthorized activity is committed, the activity can be efficiently identified, even after the output device outputs information onto media.

One of the characteristic features of the presently claimed application is that the server is separated from an output device and has a database for storing the information received from the output device in association with the unique information, the device identification information and the information about outputted time, even after the output device outputs information onto media.

Shibata is unlike the presently claimed application in that Shibata fails to teach or even suggest that the server has a database which stores the unique information, the output information and the device identification information in association with each

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other, even after the output device outputs information onto media. In Shibata, PC2 includes the storage unit 207 for storing the image data having the userID embedded therein that is received from MFP. However, Shibata does not disclose that the storage unit 207 stores the image data having the user ID embedded, even after MFP prints the image data. According to the techniques taught by Shibata cannot identify an unauthorized activity after the MFP prints the image data.

Kohima is also unlike the presently claimed application in that Kohima also fails to teach or even suggest that the server has a database which stores the unique information, the output information and the device identification information in association with each other, even after the output device outputs information onto media. In Kojima, secrecy management information is given to the copy inhibition information, and a secrecy management level of a user is assigned to each user. When the secrecy management level is found to be higher than that of the secrecy management information, then the inhibition of the input or output is canceled. According to the techniques taught by Kohima, identification of an unauthorized activity cannot be identified after the MFP prints the image data. Therefore, nothing in Kojima teaches the deficiencies of the Shibata reference.

As to the Miura reference, Miura fails to teach or suggest that the database stores the information received from the output device in association with both the unique information and the device (the output device) identification information. In the Miura reference, PRINT PC 203 does not indicate the output device (PRINTING APPARATUS 106) information but indicates the client apparatus information (See paragraph [0028] and Fig. 2). By the techniques in the Miura reference, the output device can not be identified after MRP prints the image data.

Therefore Shibata, Kohima, and Miura cannot support an obviousness rejection, because Shibata, Kohima, and Miura, in whole or in combination, do not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the presently claimed application.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-14, pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references.

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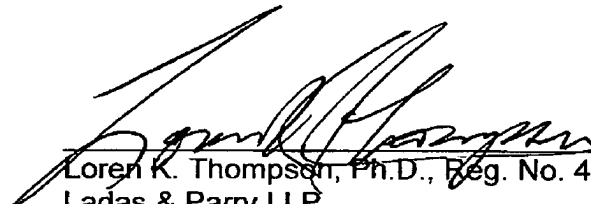
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Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

This response is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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